

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 1 has been amended so as to correct a typographical error in the formula thereof. Support for new claims 8-10 is found at the top of page 4 of the specification.

It is submitted for the following reasons that the previously filed Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 (filed on November 25, 2003) was indeed fully responsive to the previous Office Action of July 25, 2003. It is further submitted that the November 25th Reply included claims which encompass the elected species.

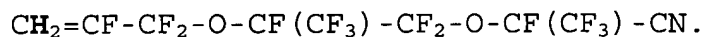
Request for Acknowledgement of Receipt of Supplemental Reply

Before addressing directly the issues raised in the Communication of February 9, 2004, it is requested that the Patent Examiner acknowledge receipt of the Supplemental Reply under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 filed on December 22, 2003.

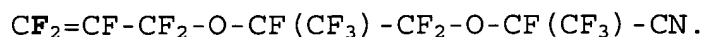
Clarification Regarding Elected Species of Example 1

It is first noted that the Office Action of July 25, 2003 and subsequent communication of February 9, 2004, incorrectly refer to the species elected by applicants in the Reply to Election Requirement filed June 30, 2003. In the June 30th Reply, applicants

elected the polymer of Example 1 at "line 21". Note that this polymer has the following structure:



However, the previous Office Action and more recent communication inadvertently refer to the elected species as being:



Consequently, it is requested that the Patent Examiner confirm that this is indeed the elected species which has been provisionally elected by applicants.

Confirmation that Present Claims Encompass Elected Species

A review of claims 1, 3 and 6 confirms that each of these claims is directed to a method for curing a polymer in a recited formula which encompasses the elected species of the homopolymer of Example 1 at page 7, line 21 of the specification. In claim 1, when x is 100% (while y is 0%), R is straight fluorinated alkylene group which contains an oxygen atom, and A is CN, the formula represents the homopolymer of Example 1. In claim 3, when z is 100% (while w is 0%), R¹ is a straight fluorinated alkylene group which contains an oxygen atom, the formula represents the homopolymer of Example 1. In claim 6, when x is 100% (while y is 0%), R_f is a fluorinated

alkylene group which contains an oxygen atom, and A is CN, the formula represents the homopolymer of Example 1.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present claims continue to encompass the elected species so as to comply with all appropriate requirements, including those of MPEP 821.03.

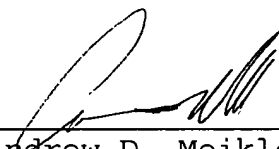
It is requested that the present Response be entered of record, and that substantive examination of the present application proceed.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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